

**By** the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Flores, Altman, Sobel, Rich, and Montford

581-02627-11

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to youth and student athletes;  
3           amending s. 943.0438, F.S.; requiring independent  
4           sanctioning authorities to adopt policies to inform  
5           youth athletes and their parents of the nature and  
6           risk of certain head injuries; requiring that a signed  
7           consent form be obtained before the youth participates  
8           in athletic practices or competitions; requiring that  
9           a youth athlete be immediately removed from an  
10          athletic activity following a suspected head injury;  
11          requiring written clearance from a medical  
12          professional before the youth resumes athletic  
13          activities; authorizing a physician to delegate the  
14          performance of medical care to certain licensed or  
15          certified health care providers and consult with or  
16          use testing and the evaluation of cognitive functions  
17          performed by a licensed neuropsychologist; amending s.  
18          1006.20, F.S.; requiring the Florida High School  
19          Athletic Association to adopt policies to inform  
20          student athletes and their parents of the nature and  
21          risk of certain head injuries; requiring that a signed  
22          consent form be obtained before a student athlete  
23          participates in athletic practices or competitions;  
24          requiring that a student athlete be immediately  
25          removed from an athletic activity following a  
26          suspected head injury; requiring written clearance  
27          from a medical professional before the student resumes  
28          athletic activities; authorizing a physician to  
29          delegate the performance of medical care to certain

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30 licensed or certified health care practitioner and  
31 consult with or use testing and the evaluation of  
32 cognitive functions performed by a licensed  
33 neuropsychologist; providing an effective date.  
34

35 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
36

37 Section 1. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of  
38 section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, to read:

39 943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning  
40 authorities.—

41 (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

42 (e)1. Adopt guidelines to educate officials,  
43 administrators, athletic coaches, and youth athletes and their  
44 parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and  
45 head injury.

46 2. Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or  
47 guardian of a minor who participates in athletic practices or  
48 competitions of the independent sanctioning authority, before  
49 the minor participates in a competition, practice, or other  
50 activity, to sign and return a consent form that explains the  
51 nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the  
52 risk of continuing to play after a concussion or head injury has  
53 occurred.

54 3. Adopt bylaws or policies that require youth athletes who  
55 are suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a  
56 practice or competition to be immediately removed from the  
57 activity. A youth athlete who has been removed may not return to  
58 practice or competition until the youth receives written

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59 clearance to return from a physician who is licensed under  
60 chapter 458 or chapter 459. Before issuing a written clearance  
61 to return to practice or competition, a physician may:

62 a. Delegate the performance of medical care to a health  
63 care provider who is licensed or certified under s. 464.012, s.  
64 458.347, s. 459.022, or s. 468.701, with whom the physician  
65 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or established  
66 written protocol that identifies the medical care or evaluations  
67 to be performed, identifies conditions for performing medical  
68 care or evaluations, and attests to proficiency in the  
69 evaluation and management of concussions; and

70 b. Consult with or use testing and the evaluation of  
71 cognitive functions performed by a neuropsychologist licensed  
72 under chapter 490.

73 Section 2. Paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) are added to  
74 subsection (2) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, to read:

75 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

76 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

77 (e) The organization shall adopt guidelines to educate  
78 officials, administrators, coaches, and student athletes and  
79 their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion  
80 and head injury.

81 (f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that  
82 require the parent or guardian of a student who participates in  
83 interscholastic athletic competition or who is a candidate for  
84 an interscholastic athletic team, before the student  
85 participates in a competition, practice, or other activity, to  
86 annually sign and return a consent form that explains the nature  
87 and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of

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88 continuing to play after a concussion or head injury has  
89 occurred.

90 (g) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that  
91 require student athletes who are suspected of sustaining a  
92 concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be  
93 immediately removed from the activity. A student athlete who has  
94 been removed may not return to practice or competition until the  
95 student receives written clearance to return from a physician  
96 who is licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459. Before issuing  
97 a written clearance to return to practice or competition, a  
98 physician may:

99 1. Delegate the performance of medical care to a health  
100 care practitioner who is licensed or certified under s. 464.012,  
101 s. 458.347, s. 459.022, or s. 468.701, with whom the physician  
102 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or established  
103 written protocol that identifies the medical care or evaluations  
104 to be performed, identifies the conditions for their  
105 performance, and attests to proficiency in the evaluation and  
106 management of concussions; and

107 2. Consult with or use testing and the evaluation of  
108 cognitive functions performed by a neuropsychologist licensed  
109 under chapter 490.

110 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.